MARVEL

UNIVERSE

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THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

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Oliveira

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McKenna

STILL $1.50

OLIVEIRA
McKENNA

SOMETHING'S IN THE AIR THIS EVE.

THE DARKENING STORM THREATENS TO BREAK--PROMISING A COLD, CLEANSING RAIN LONG OVERDUE IN THIS FORGOTTEN CORNER OF CALIFORNIA--

--BUT THAT'S ONLY PART OF IT.

THE LONELY DWELLING ON THE HILL HANGS HEAVY WITH FEAR AND PAIN--FAINT ECHOES OF SCREAMS AND PLEAS UNHEEDED--

--BUT THAT'S THE VERY LEAST OF IT.

GOT TO GET OUT...

GET TO HIM... GET TO HIM *NOW*...

OUR LITTLE HELLCAT'S GOT A *MAJOR* MAD-ON TONIGHT, MR. BLUE. SQUIRMING AROUND--

--LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW.

REACH HIM SOME-HOW...

JUST HOLD HER DOWN FOR ANOTHER COUPLE OF SECONDS, MR. BROWN.

THIS'LL TAKE THE FIGHT OUT OF HER--

STOP HIM...

--AS USUAL.

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SHRRUDD!
NOOO!
LOOK OUT!
SHE'S TEARING--
FREE!
THOK!
uhnn...
SHARP STREAKS OF LIGHTNING BURN THROUGH THE SHADOWS OF THE NIGHT.
M. ROGERS
ILLUMINATING A NAME LONG NEGLECTED...
... AND A FACE NEVER SEEN.
A GLARING REFLECTION OF THE MADWOMAN WITHIN--
SKRAASH!
--OR A QUIET CALL TO HER...?
--BECOMES A GRACEFUL ARC--
AS DORMANT MUSCLES SLOWLY RESPOND TO A FAMILIAR CHALLENGE OF OLD, HER CRUDE ROLL--
--LEADING TO A CONTROLLED BOUNCE--
...ENDING IN A SOFT AND SILENT LANDING.
NOTHING BUT THE FRAGILE ORCHIDS OF HER OWN GARDEN HURT IN THE FALL.
I'M COMING, TONY...
STARK CENTER PRIVATE HOSPITAL
AND ANOTHER LUNATIC IS ON THE LOOSE.

SMOG-COUNT'S LOW IN L.A. THIS MORNING, BELIEVE IT OR NOT.

USUALLY MEANS TROUBLE SOMEWHERE...

...IF YOU KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.

SUNSHINE BRINGS OUT THE TOURISTS AND WANDERERS-- THE *PREY*--

--AND THE *PREDATORS*.

WHEELS ARE *MINE* NOW, CHUMP!

OUTTA THE CAR--!

NO, NO...

...madré de dios!

VRRM

SAVE YA PRAYERS, HOMBRE...

...FER SOMEONE WHO GIVES A--

SKREEE

HEAT LIKE THIS BRINGS OUT THE BEAST IN THE BEST OF US.

HELPPP!

MISTAKE, GRAMMA...

...YOUR LAST!

TCHNK

MAN COULD KILL--

--FOR A COLD BEER.

SHORT TIME I'VE LIVED OUT WEST, THIS PARTICULAR NEIGHBORHOOD'S GONE FROM BAD...

...TO THE WORST.

PRICE IS RIGHT FOR BEGINNERS, KIDS...

...LONG AS YOU PROMISE TO *SHARE* WITH THE REST OF THE CLASS.

AND THERE'S PLENTY *MORE* WHERE THIS CAME FR--

SKRRK!

BUT I CAN'T BE *EVERYWHERE* AT ONCE.

SUN'S BARELY UP...

...AND THE REAL PUNKS ARE ALREADY COMING OUT TO PLAY.

SICK O' WARNING YOU *SWEATS* NOT TA MESS WITH THE SISTERS FROM OUR STREET NO MORE.

NOW WE GOTTA *TEACH* YA HARD!

WOULDN'T BE NO PROBLEM, STONE--

--IF YA COULD KEEP YER WOMEN FROM CRAWLIN' ROUND TA US AFTER DARK!

'STONES AND SWEATS ARE ANGRY KIDS WITH ENOUGH *HARDWARE* TO DESTROY WHAT'S LEFT OF THE BLOCK...

...AND THEY'RE JUST THE *WANNA-BES.*

DROP THE TOYS, BOYS AND GIRLS.

WHO THE--?!

KPOW!

KPOW!

KPOW!

BURN 'IM!

HOLLOW MAN

BETTER MEN THAN YOU HAVE TRIED...

...WITH BIGGER GUNS,

TERRY KAVANAGH
WRITER
HEITOR OLIVEIRA ✦
ADRIANA MELO
PENCILERS
MARK McKENNA
INKER
PHIL FELIX
LETTERER
JOHN KALISZ
COLORIST
NEL YOMTOV
EDITOR
MARK GRUENWALD
EDITOR IN CHIEF
MALIBU
COMPUTER COLOR

STAN LEE presents:

IRON MAN..?

PZNG

PZNG

THERE'S *ALWAYS* A BIGGER GUN -- A BETTER WEAPON--

--NOTHING MAKES YOU INVINCIBLE.

WHAT'S *HE* DOIN' IN THE 'HOOD?!

INERTIAL-DAMPENERS SLOW THE REBOUNDING BULLETS BEFORE THEY CAN HURT ANYONE.

NEW ARMOR *MAGNETIZES* THE METAL ARTILLERY WITH A CYBER-THOUGHT...

...AND *MELTS* IT ALL INTO HARMLESS SLAG ON CONTACT.

SSTT

HSSS

A WEAPON IS ONLY AS POWERFUL AS THOSE WHO WIELD IT. AND ANY ONE CAN BE *OVERCOME* BY ANOTHER...

...BUT TONY STARK--EX-MUNITIONS MANUFACTURER--HAS GOOD REASON TO DOUBT THAT LESSON WILL EVER BE LEARNED.

WON'T STOP ME FROM TRYING, THOUGH.

LOCAL COMMUNITY NEEDS A HEALTHIER WAY TO BLOW OFF STEAM--A PLACE TO ESCAPE THE MEAN STREETS, INSTEAD OF A DRUG--

--A LITTLE TOUCH OF GREEN IN THE HEART OF THEIR URBAN NIGHTMARE.

I KNOW YOU'RE ALL ANXIOUS TO SEE EXACTLY WHAT IT IS WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED HERE OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS, SO I WON'T WASTE TIME WITH SPEECHES.

STARK ENTERPRISES WOULD JUST LIKE TO THANK YOU ALL--BOTH RESIDENTS AND PRESS--

--FOR COMING OUT TO JOIN US THIS FINE MORN...

...FOR THE GRAND OPENING OF--

PROPERTY WAS CERTAINLY CHEAP ENOUGH AROUND HERE, AND I WAS MORE THAN WILLING TO FOOT THE BILL FOR LANDSCAPING...

...THE REST IS UP TO THEM.

SNIP!

"--MARIA STARK PARK."

NICE TO SEE YOU'VE GOT YOUR EYE ON THE *PUBLIC INTEREST* ONCE AGAIN, TONY...

...OR IS IT JUST THE PUBLIC *EYE* YOU'RE INTERESTED IN THESE DAYS?

ANY EXCUSE TO RUN INTO YOU, MS. WINTERS-- AND YOUR WONDERFUL WAY WITH WORDS--

--IS *ALWAYS* WORTH THE TIME AND MONEY.

AND THIS PARTICULAR INVESTMENT CERTAINLY MAKES FOR A HEALTHY *WRITE-OFF* COME APRIL, OF COURSE...

NOTHING BUT SOME COLORFUL SLIDES AND SWINGS AND A FEW TONS OF FERTILIZER, MAGGIE.

SOUND GARDEN

T'ANK YOU, MISTA STAWK...

WORTH EVERY PENNY.

...T'ANK YOU SO MUCH.

CLIK

CLIK

KAWALARZ

WHRR

HALF A WORLD AWAY, IN THE LUSH JUNGLES OF VIETNAM...

...WHERE THE RAINS HAVE BEEN TOO GENEROUS THIS YEAR.

HACK

CHOP

HACK

THE UNDERBRUSH IS DENSER THAN EVER--THE PATHS OVERGROWN FROM DISUSE--

--BUT OUR DESTINATION NEARS.

THE GENTLE GARDENS THEMSELVES ONCE BEGAN AT THIS VERY ROOT, MY BROTHERS...

...STAY YOUR BLADES.

WE HAVE FINALLY COME HOME AGAIN...

... BUT WE ARE TOO LATE.

THE TEMPLE OF AGAPHALIR--

--IS NO MORE.

ALL IS AS WE FEARED.

THEN THE PRIESTS OF PAMA SHALL BE FOREVER DAMNED...

KREELARA

KREELARA

KREELARA

STARK ENTERPRISES HAS BEEN A MAJOR EMPLOYER IN LOS ANGELES SINCE WE MOVED OUT HERE...

...SO EVERY STATION IN THE STATE IS COVERING THIS MORNING'S SHOW-STOPPER.

T'ANK YOU, MISTA STAWK...

...T'ANK YOU...

...T'ANK YOU SO MUCH.

PERFECT.

THE KIDS GET A PLAYGROUND, THE PEOPLE GET A PARK...

--DESPITE RECENT CONCENTRATION ON HIS PROPOSED COMMUNICATION SATELLITE, C.E.O. STARK PROVED THAT HIS FEET ARE STILL PLANTED FIRMLY ON THE GROUND TODAY--

T'ANK YOU...

...AND I GET A GOOD SPIN ON THE *STARCORE PROJECT* AT THIS DELICATE STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT.

DIAL GYRICH.

COULDN'T HAVE WORKED OUT BETTER...

...IF I'D PLANNED IT THIS WAY MYSELF.

TALK TO ME, STARK.

AND MAKE IT *FAST.*

I'VE GOT MY HANDS FULL RIGHT NOW WITH TROUBLE BACK EAST. LOOKS LIKE YOUR *PET VIGILANTES* ARE MESSING AROUND WHERE THEY'RE NOT WELCOME AGAIN, AND--

I *KNOW*, PETER, I'M WELL AWARE OF THE SITUATION.

I HAD OCCASION TO *VISIT* THE MANSION EARLIER THIS WEEK.* I HEARD ALL ABOUT THE DEATHCRY DEBACLE, *AND* YOUR RUN-IN WITH THE OTHERS.**

ENOUGH'S ENOUGH ALREADY...

...WE MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE *AVENGERS.*

* *AVENGERS: THE CROSSING*
** *AVENGERS #389.* --NEL

BETHANY--!?

TSK TSK, MS. CABE...

...IS THAT A NOTE OF JEALOUSY I HEAR CREEPING INTO YOUR VOICE ALREADY?

WHEN A CALL FROM ANYWHERE IN THIS COMPANY BYPASSES THE SECURITY BOARD, IT'S MY JOB TO BE CURIOUS.

DON'T EVEN TRY THAT WITH ME, MISTER.

AND IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY TO USE A SECURED-LINE FOR STARCORE BUSINESS FROM NOW ON...

TONY...

...WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?

KLK

MMMMMM

...DOES THAT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, RED?

RETINA-SCAN: MATCH.

PALM-SCAN: MATCH.

NOT EVEN A LITTLE...

...BUT YOU'RE THE BOSS.

AND YOU KNOW WHERE TO REACH ME IF ANYTHING COMES UP IN THE NEXT FEW HOURS.

I KNOW WHERE TO FIND YOU ALRIGHT, TONY--IN YOUR OWN PRIVATE IDAHO, AS USUAL.

--I'M JUST NOT SURE ANYONE CAN REACH YOU ANYMORE.

AND THIS IS STARTING TO VERGE ON INSULTING.

CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER HOW MUCH OF MY CONVERSATION BETH OVERHEARD--OR HOW MUCH SHE EVEN CARES, REALLY--

--EVERYTHING'S HAPPENING SO FAST ALL OF A SUDDEN.

I DON'T WANT TO HURT HER...

...BUT THERE'S NO WAY TO KNOW YET IF WE'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING, GETTING BACK TOGETHER AFTER ALL THESE MONTHS.

HAVE TO PULL BACK FOR SOME PERSPECTIVE ON THIS, TAKE SOME TIME TO THINK.

ALONE.

PERSONAL LAB'S OFF-LIMITS TO ABSOLUTELY EVERYONE...

...EXCEPT MACHINESMITH, OF COURSE.

THAT ROBOT THAT WALKS LIKE A MAN.

LOOKING GOOD, CHIEF.

...IF AND WHEN YOU'RE READY TO EXPERIMENT.

WON'T HAPPEN, SMITH.

EVER.

GIVE IT UP, ALREADY.

YOU FIRST, MR. T.

I'M STILL HOLDING OUT FOR A CERTAIN OH-SO-SENSITIVE ANDROID THAT'S NEVER BEEN AFRAID TO CRY.

DID WHAT I COULD FOR MACHINESMITH WHEN I FIRST BROUGHT HIM IN--

--JUST TO HAVE SOMEONE I COULD TALK TO, ABOUT A PASSION FOR TECHNOLOGY WE DO SHARE--

GOT A FEW THINGS SHAKING HERE THAT SHOULD INTEREST YOU...

--BUT EVEN I HAVE MY LIMITS.

WHERE SHALL WE BEGIN THEN...?

THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN OUR HYPOTHETICAL WEATHER-REGULATION PROCESS--

--THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNICATIONS UPLINK WE'RE ONLY WEEKS FROM PERFECTING--

beep

COMM-SIGNAL ON MY PRIVATE CONSOLE...!?

--OR THE VERY PROBABLE APPLICATION OF BOTH SYSTEMS INTO THE FINAL STARCORE PACKAGE?

I NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT--

DOWNTIME, 'SMITH.

MY TRUSTY LAB PARTNER HERE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE ACCESS TO THIS STATION.

RETINA-SCAN: MATCH.

PALM-SCAN: MATCH.

NO IDEA WHO COULD BE CONTACTING ME THROUGH...

AND SUDDENLY-- WITHOUT A WHISPER OF WARNING--

--A BRILLIANTLY BRIGHT MIND...

...FADES TO BLACK.

THE DARKNESS IS WELL-KNOWN, AND WELL-FEARED.

SOMEHOW RECOGNIZED, BUT DENIED.

UNTIL...

TZLT

I KNOW YOU DIDN'T MEAN TO DO IT

ZTTZ

I TRIED TO WARN...

I COULDN'T STOP YOU...

THE OTHERS ARE COMING ALREADY

ZTTZ

THEY'RE COMING

TZLT

AND IN WHAT SEEMS MERELY A MOMENT BETWEEN HEARTBEATS-- A SINGLE PULSE IN THE LIFE OF A MAN--

--ALL IS CHANGED.

FOREVERMORE.

WHAT THE...?!

--ADMIT I WAS A LITTLE NERVOUS ABOUT HOW YOU'D REACT TO AN UNINVITED DINNER GUEST.

MY KITCHEN...

...I'M STANDING IN MY OWN KITCHEN?

AT HOME.

WITH BETHANY.

SO I HEDGED MY BET WITH YOUR FAVORITE CHINESE TAKE-OUT, AND SOME HOMEMADE SALAD FROM THE HYDRO-FARM.

HOPE YOU'RE HUNGRY, HON.

BUT LAST THING I REMEMBER, I WAS IN MY LAB--AT THE OFFICE--

--WHEN...

KLNG

TONY...!?

WHERE DID HE--

WHO WAS THAT?!

WHY DO I DO THIS TO MYSELF...?

KRAKA BOOM

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

BUT THIS IS MY HOUSE, ALRIGHT...

...THE GROUND BENEATH MY FEET AS SOLID AS IT COMES ON THE PACIFIC COAST.

SO HOW DID I GET ALL THE WAY OUT HERE--

--WHO WAS THAT STRANGE GIRL IN MY VISION, SOMEHOW SO FAMILIAR--

KRAKA

BOOM

WHAT IN GOD'S NAME IS HAPPENING TO ME...?!

--AND WHAT WAS SHE TRYING TO WARN ME ABOUT...?

ALONE--WITHOUT HIS ARMOR--THE PAST COMES BACK TO HAUNT TONY STARK...!